

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended to its representative during the conference on February 23, 2004. During that conference, the examiner suggested that the claims be clarified to state that the spaces change shape in response to deformation of the substrate or semiconductor device. The examiner stated that with this clarification, the claims would be in condition for allowance. The above amendments to the claims comply with the examiner's suggestion.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2, and 4-27 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 15, 16 and 17-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, pursuant to the examiner's suggestion, the term "amoebiform" is clarified by the above amendments which state that the spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and the semiconductor device. As such, this rejection should be moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8, 18, 24, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (02164230). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, claims 1, 8, 18, 24, and 26 are amended to recite that the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device. Sato fails to teach or suggest this feature. Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and therefore inherits this feature based on its dependency.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeshi (EP 051071). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claim 9 is amended to recite that the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device. Takeshi fails to teach or suggest this feature.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Andrews (U.S. Pat. No. 5,352,926) and Muramatsu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,893,623). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4 and 7 depend from claim 1 and therefore inherit the above recited feature (the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device) based on their dependency. Sato, Andrews, and Muramatsu each fail to teach or suggest this feature.

Claim 3 is cancelled.

Claim 5 is amended to recite that the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device. Sato, Andrews, and Muramatsu each fail to teach or suggest this feature. Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and therefore inherits this feature based on its dependency.

Claims 11-17, 19-23, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of Sato and Andrews. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, Claims 11, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26 and 27 are amended to recite that the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device. APA, Sato, and Andrews each fail to teach or suggest this feature. Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11 and therefore inherit this feature based on their dependency. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and therefore inherits this feature based on its dependency.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi in view of Muramatsu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and therefore inherits the above recited feature (the claimed amoebiform spaces change shape in response to deformation of at least one of the substrate and semiconductor device) based on its dependency. Takeshi and Muramatsu each fail to teach or suggest this feature.

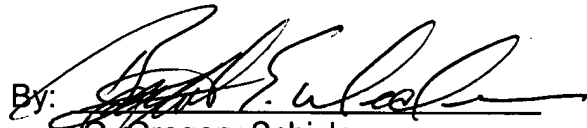
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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